

# IDEAS 4

**International Online Teachers Society  
Debate  
Educational Materials For  
Advance and Upper Intermediate  
Students**



**International Online Teachers Society  
Publishing Committee**



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## TECHER - WHO IS A TEACHER?

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Through many years, teaching has always been included in the list of the most sought- after professions in the world. Looking back at my grade school days, one of my teachers would ask us to write what we wanted to be when we grew up; and many of us answered, Teacher. As a pupil, I looked up to my mentors who served as my second parent at school. And I wondered how teachers were able to do their responsibilities and be a mother or a father at the same time to many children. Since I had been at school for sixteen years (from kindergarten to university, no middle school in the Philippines), I was able to come up with the four key qualities of a good and effective teacher.

A teacher has a deep knowledge and comprehension of the subject matter. An educator comes to class well-prepared for the day's lesson, and is ready to answer questions from his students. Understanding of the topic is essential; nevertheless, he should be able to impart it to his students as well.

A teacher is patient. Pupils and students will always test the temper of a teacher. In pre-school, one must be able to handle a chaotic situation in a calm and composed manner, no matter how mischievous the kids are. Also, he should be able to tolerate children with erratic behavior without annoyance.

A teacher is ingenious. An instructor has to keep the interest of the students all the time. It is undeniable that not all lessons are interesting. The teacher should be smart enough to discover new and bright ideas on how to present the subject matter in an attractive way. The use of the latest methodology and teaching approach can make a boring subject exciting.

A teacher is passionate to her profession. Handling a number of students in a class is not a piece of cake. Despite the challenges that a teacher has to meet every day, a good mentor is someone who puts his heart into his career. The passion that the educator displays encourages the learners to work harder. Passion is indeed contagious. Hearing success stories of former students certainly make a teacher blissfully happy. Whether acknowledged or not, the teacher will always be the greatest fan of her students.

As we headed to the twentieth century, a child's dream of becoming a future teacher for the next generation has slowly faded. The minds of the young are yet to be molded and nurtured. But is there anybody willing to continue the task? "The task of an excellent teacher is to stimulate "apparently ordinary" people to unusual effort. The tough problem is not in identifying winners: it is in making winners out of ordinary people" (K. Patricia Cross).

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who was your favorite teacher? Describe him/her.
2. What are the qualities of a good and effective teacher?
3. What other qualities should a teacher possess?
4. How has your teacher influenced you?
5. Would you like to be a teacher?



## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A TEACHER

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To be a teacher means not being stuck in an impersonal office all day. It gives you the opportunity to relate to children in a variety of ways, learning from them and at the same time teaching them. There is never a “sameness” in your job from day to day but it has endless variety. Not only that, you also have the opportunity to constantly learn, research and better your own skills and knowledge too. Apparently, the teacher is the most important person in school (being the second home of the students) for the main reason that he/she helps students to know life and opens the door to the unknown world.

Nowadays, a teacher is like a friend or adviser of students who shows or advises the students how to study, learn or to do something. Metaphorically, they say that they are like actors because “they are always on the stage” or they are like gardeners because “they plant the seeds and then watch them grow”.

Aside from the fact that teachers can do a lot of innovative things in his/her job, it also has a lot of advantages and disadvantages. This is what makes teaching a multi-faceted profession. Moreover, the teaching profession is profoundly unique for teachers are not only educators; they are very unique professionals too. Teachers embrace the field of education as a calling and not as a job. Let’s face the fact that teaching is a very complex and demanding career that requires teachers to be managers of people, analyzers of data and researchers of best practices and instructional methodologies, wherein these skills are utilized each day. These educators are unique for there is no other professional group that manages so many people and is so responsible for individual progress.

As for me, the task of being a teacher is certainly not only confined to peeling back the student’s scalps and pouring in the knowledge, but it is rather an on-going struggle to help them make sense of material. You have to try to find means and ways in your approach in which it will connect lives and this is a process that never stops. If I happen to read something of interest in the paper or on-line, the first thing that enters my mind is “how can I use this for my students?” When I happen to encounter a prominent or a well-known personality, I become brash, approach them, trying to drop a compliment or two and then ask if they are willing to come and talk to students. Their answer will almost always be yes and this enables me to extend the world of my classroom to a larger world (one that I can bring into the building). At times it will lead to internships and other relationships for some students and for all it has been meant to be a learning experience beyond what I can personally provide for them. Thus, I am able to push my students outside their comfort zones, to have them challenge themselves and become a better person.

To me, that is what is meant to be a teacher. It’s not an easy task; it’s not being pretty and playing intelligible in front of your students, not being a braggadocio, but it is working shoulder to shoulder through unimaginably tough times to make the lives of young people better. Lastly, I am hoping and praying that teachers will always be a role model, an advocate for positive change and will always encourage students to do what is right. I also hope that I am on the right track of trying to influence these students to become mature, responsible and knowledgeable young adults of tomorrow.

Questions for discussion:

1. Is being a teacher an advantage or a disadvantage for you? Why is it so?
2. How can we be a role model for our students?
3. Do you teach just for the sake of teaching alone?
4. What does it really entail to become a teacher?
5. Has teaching enhanced you as a whole person?



## THE REALITY OF BEING A TEACHER

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A teacher's job is very interesting but at the same time it is also very difficult. We all know that a teacher's role is to pass on knowledge, to develop skills and develop wisdom, passion and commitment in students. Teaching is a very noble profession that entails a lot of sacrifices but at the same time it is very fulfilling. A teacher's ultimate goal is to help students learn things so as to let them become upright and productive citizens later on. For this thing to happen, a teacher should be able to transfer information in an effective manner. To be effective, a teacher should be conversant and passionate about the subject. It is not enough to get the message across for the sole reason that a teacher's demeanor and compassion do count in generating a positive response from the students.

Let us delve into the realms of teaching. To be a teacher is not an easy task because you hold a lot of responsibilities in your hands and among them is the responsibility to mold minds. Being a teacher requires a lot of patience, understanding and compassion (one cannot do without the other). Thus, these traits will help will enable the teacher to reach out to the student quickly. Then trust develops and respect becomes apparent. The student becomes more comfortable and is now eager to learn.

The task of teaching then goes beyond the transfer of information. Now the teacher is vent on teaching as a mission to improve the life of a student. The whole point of teaching is to make the students grow. Providing information is essential. However, the duty doesn't end in reaching the education's inner sanctum which is the classroom alone. Although a good teacher is a committed professional, good teachers are able to do more than just work with students after school. It is also clear then that a committed teacher is someone who extends extra time after school with students or works to address the individual needs of students.

For a teacher, real teaching begins when the student uses what he learns in school in real life. To use this knowledge for good and for self-improvement is the greatest reward that a teacher can have. Such a professional is able to learn with the students and so he or she can become a better teacher. What the children learn in the classroom will eventually affect his/her attitudes, outlook in life, views, decisions and actions. The teacher's choice of words and language selections are critical to the self-esteem, the academic success, and the healthy mental and emotional development of your students. By selecting words and phrases intentionally; by altering your present language; by adding to or talking away from your common utterances; you can empower your students and enhance their learning. The knowledge they acquire in the classroom is critical in their decision-making process later on.

Most of all, the guidance of a teacher will give the students confidence in making decisions for themselves. Learning then is no longer limited and contained in the four corners of their classroom but it becomes a continuous life-long experience.

Questions for discussions:

1. What are the rewards of being a teacher?
2. What are the virtues that a teacher possesses?
3. Can teaching be considered as one of the most rewarding profession?
4. Do you consider teaching an arduous task?
5. Is being a teacher a vocation or a calling?



What type of Teacher are you?

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One cannot deny the influence of teachers in one's life. In fact, it would not be an exaggeration to say that, till a certain age, our life revolves around our teachers. They are responsible in molding the student's personality and shaping his/her mental orientation. Like our parents, they are our constant companions, until we grow old enough to come out of their shadow and move ahead on our own. When we embark our education trip, we come across different types of teachers. Some are strict, some are friendly, and some are those who we consider to be our role models. We also dislike a few, who fail to impress us positively. We even classify our teachers into different categories. We classify them as Friendly Teachers, Perfectionist Teachers, Funny Teachers, Strict Teachers, Ideal Teacher and Lenient Teachers. All these classification for teachers are based on some typical personality traits of the teachers. Here are some details of these types of Teachers.

#### The Friendly Teacher

These are the Teachers who act as a friend to every student. They are willing to help and guide them through out their education trip. They are the ones who understand what their students need, try their best to reach out to them and make students feel that they are still at home though in fact they are in school. We all, at some point of time, aspire for a friendly teacher.

#### The Perfectionist Teacher

These are teachers want to see perfection in everything that he/ she do. Somehow this attitude of a teacher is hard for the students to cope up to. Having a perfectionist teacher in class makes the student uncomfortable. We all know that teachers are the second parents of children. Just imagine the life of a child who has parents who are into perfection and is asking too much from their child. Isn't hard?

#### The Funny Teacher

These teachers are like a God- sent to their students. Such a teacher always wants to see their students smile and make learning a pleasurable experience. People might think that they are clumsy, but actually they are not. Rather, they are witty and bring in humor in the most subtle form.

#### The Strict Teacher

These teachers are very tough on students. He/ she always insist on adhering to the deadlines. Such teachers dislike any mistakes or carelessness on the part of the student. Students have to be extra cautious under such a teacher. He/ she is like a disciplinarian, always keeping students on their toes.

#### The Ideal Teacher

These teachers are the ones we respect from our heart. He/ she acts as a guide to the students, while not punishing too much. They motivate and boost their students' morale. He/ she try to encourage their students and refrains from criticizing them.

#### The Lenient Teacher

These teachers are easygoing and take things as they come. They are not overly finicky about things, such as doing homework on time or not sitting quietly in the class, etc. Such teachers very well realize that being strict with a child can only make him/her withdrawn. However, this does not mean that one can do anything in the class of a pampering teacher. No matter what kind of teacher we have, we can't deny that in our hearts they are a blessing to us. Teachers are the second parents of students, and as we grow older and matured, we realize that everything that our teachers do, the reason behind that is that they love us.

Questions to discussion :

1. Who is your favorite teacher? What type of teacher is she/ he?
2. If you will be a teacher, which among the (6) six types of teachers are you?
3. What characteristics of a teacher will inspire you to study hard?
4. What do you think is the role of teachers in your life?
5. Do you still know of other types of teachers, if so what is it? explain



International Online Teachers Society(IOTS) is an independent non profit international organization committed to improving the state of online and offline education in the world by engaging all kinds of language teachers with fluent English speaking skill in the world to shape global, regional and education agendas.  
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